

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10-15 and 17, which are independent, are hereby amended. Claim 16 is hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatenable over U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0109859 A1 to Tipirneni (hereinafter, merely "Tipirneni") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,664,109 to Johnson, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Johnson").

Claims 5, 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tipirneni in view of Johnson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,801,340 to Endo (hereinafter, merely "Endo").

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tipirneni in view of Johnson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,345 to Engelmann, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Engelmann").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

"...a retrieval result displaying function portion displaying a view of simplified image data...

wherein the simplified image data is generated separately from the original image data for displaying the retrieval result with its data volume reduced, and

wherein said contents related information includes information with regard to location, object, situation and shooting method of the retrieved image data." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Tipirneni relates to a digital camera containing patient images is connected to an uploader computer and the patient's name or history is entered into the uploader computer. The uploader computer then connects to the Internet, connects to the secure host server, uploads the images to the host server and shuts down the Internet connection. After the physician selects a medical facility and the system verifies the physician's user I.D. and password, the host server constructs an HTML web page which includes a list of patients whose images were previously uploaded by the medical facility and are available for viewing.

As understood by Applicants, Endo relates to a document transmission apparatus that reduces labor of an operator when transmitting document data, inputted from a scanner or

the like, by various transmission methods such as electronic mail, facsimile, remote printing and file transfer. An address book containing a receiver and a plurality of transmission methods for transmitting document data to the receiver is generated. Upon transmission instruction, an appropriate transmission method is selected by the receiver, then document data is converted into data of an appropriate data format, and the converted data is transmitted.

As understood by Applicants, Engelmann relates to a method and system for displaying medical images and computer output from various CAD schemes on the images. Images are loaded into the display system and displayed in a main viewing area. The system can display various CAD schemes, such as the automated detection of lung nodules, interstitial infiltrates, and heart size, in the case of a chest image, on the image. The method and system also display interval change (temporal subtraction) between images. Individual abnormality from CAD schemes can be viewed by clicking buttons with minified (postage stamp size) images with CAD annotation rendered into them.

As understood by Applicants, Johnson relates to a central medical record repository for a managed health care organization which accepts and stores medical record documents in any format from medical service providers. The repository then identifies the document using information automatically extracted from the document and stores the extracted data in a document database. The repository links the document to a patient by extracting from the document demographic data identifying the patient and matching it to data stored in a patient database. Data is extracted automatically from medical records containing "unstructured" or free-form text by identifying conventional organization components in the text and is organized by executing rules that extract data with the aid of such information. Documents for a patient are retrieved by identifying the patient using demographic data.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Tipirneni, Endo, Engelmann or Johnson, taken alone or in combination that would disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Specifically, Applicants submit that neither Tipirneni nor the other art used as a basis of rejection disclose that the simplified image data is generated separately from the original image data for displaying the retrieval result with its data volume reduced, and contents related information includes information with regard to location, object, situation and shooting method of the retrieved image data, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 10-15 and 17 are also believed to be patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are dependent from one of the amended independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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